

7AM-CONGRESS-JOBS; BJT;600

7HOUSE MOVING TOWARD APPROVAL OF DEMOCRATIC JOBS BILL

7EDS: NOTE LANGUAGE IN QUOTE IN 5TH GRAF

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WASHINGTON (AP) - THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED HOUSE, SCORNING A REPORTED VETO THREAT, MARCHED TOWARD APPROVAL TUESDAY OF A \$5.4 BILLION CHRISTMAS TIME JOBS BILL.

AIDES IN BOTH PARTIES PREDICTED THE HOUSE WOULD APPROVE THE PLAN EASILY - INCLUDING \$1 BILLION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS - AS PART OF LEGISLATION NEEDED TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT FROM RUNNING OUT OF MONEY AT MIDNIGHT FRIDAY. THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED SENATE HAS NOT YET ACTED ON THE RESOLUTION.

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER JIM WRIGHT OF TEXAS SAID IT WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THE COUNTRY HELPING ITSELF OUT OF A "DEEP DEPRESSION."

BUT REP. SILVIO CONTE, R-MASS., REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS PREPARED TO VETO THE JOBS LEGISLATION EVEN IF IT MEANT SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT.

"I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF ITS FRIDAY NIGHT AND THE GOVERNMENT IS BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL. I WON'T SIGN A (BILL) THAT HAS JOBS LEGISLATION IN IT," CONTE QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS TELLING GOP LAWMAKERS AT A WHITE HOUSE MEETING.

THE HOUSE DEBATE CAME AS DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE SOUGHT A VOTE ON A \$9.7 BILLION JOBS BILL OF THEIR OWN; ONE EVEN PARTY AIDES CONCEDED WAS DOOMED TO DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY. THAT PLAN WAS EXPECTED TO COME UP AS AN AMENDMENT TO A BILL PROVIDING A NICKEL-A-GALLON INCREASE IN THE FEDERAL GASOLINE TAX; A MEASURE REAGAN SUPPORTED AFTER IT PICKED UP BIPARTISAN CONGRESSSINAL BACKING LAST MONTH. THAT BILL ALREADY HAS PASSED THE HOUSE AND SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HOWARD BAKER HAS PREDICTED SENATE PASSAGE LATER THIS WEEK.

IT WOULD PROVIDE \$5.5 MILLION FOR BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY REPAIR AND MASS TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS.

THE GAS TAX BILL AND THE SPENDING BILL NEEDED TO FINANCE THE GOVERNMENT ARE THE MAJOR ITEMS OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR THE 97TH CONGRESS. LEADERS IN BOTH HOUSES WERE CLINGING TO HOPES THEY COULD ADJOURN BY THE WEEKEND; BUT CONCEDED THE SESSION COULD SPILL OVER INTO CHRISTMAS WEEK.

DEMOCRATS IN BOTH HOUSES WOULD LIKE TO SECURE PASSAGE OF THEIR JOBS BILLS BEFORE THE SESSION ENDS; BUT THEIR PROSPECTS SEEMED REMOTE GIVEN REAGAN'S REPORTED OPPOSITION AND THE GOP MAJORITY IN THE SENATE.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS DRAFTED THEIR \$5.4 BILLION JOBS INITIATIVE AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE GASOLINE TAX INCREASE; WHICH WOULD RAISE AN ESTIMATED \$5.5 BILLION A YEAR ON A MASSIVE PROGRAM OF JOBS-CREATING HIGHWAY AND MASS TRANSIT REPAIR.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN INCLUDES \$1 BILLION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS AND ANOTHER \$1 BILLION IN GRANTS FOR BIG CITIES AND URBAN COUNTIES. THE BALANCE OF THE MONEY WOULD BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT DOZENS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS; FINANCING IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING; NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER FACILITIES AND PROVIDING \$250 MILLION FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE.

UP098

MX-REPEAT 12-14

REPEATING UP049, UP050, UP056:

MX-1ST ADD (UP047)

REAGAN APPEARED BEFORE REPORTERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM AFTER MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC SENATORS IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE MX AFTER HOUSE REJECTION LAST WEEK OF \$988 MILLION IN PRODUCTION FUNDS.

"I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE'VE REACHED A BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT THAT WE HOPE WILL PRESERVE FUNDING FOR THE THE MISSILE AND ENABLE US TO CONTINUE THE RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES," REAGAN SAID.

MX-2ND ADD

FLANKED BY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE GOP LEADERSHIP, REAGAN SAID IT HAS "BECOME APPARENT" THAT MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SUPPORT THE MISSILE ITSELF BUT HAVE QUALMS ABOUT THE "DENSE PACK" BASING MODE HE RECOMMENDED NOV. 2.

"THE AGREEMENT WE'VE REACHED TODAY IS A REASONABLE BALANCING OF THOSE INTERESTS," HE SAID.

UNDER TERMS OF THE COMPROMISE, OUTLINED BY SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN TOWER, R-TEXAS, CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE THE \$988 MILLION REAGAN HAS REQUESTED, BUT TIE ITS ACTUAL USE TO APPROVAL OF A BASING MODE.

THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESUBMIT HIS CERTIFICATION OF A BASING MODE -- NOT NECESSARILY DENSE PACK -- AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON ALTERNATIVE SCENES. CONGRESS WOULD HAVE 45 DAYS TO APPROVE REAGAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN.

THE DEPLOYMENT PLAN WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE.

MX-3RD ADD

"THE UNITED STATES MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH AN EFFECTIVE LAND-BASED MISSILE -- ONE THAT WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR A SECURE AMERICA, BUT WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF OUR NEGOTIATORS AT THE...ARMS CONTROL TALKS IN GENEVA," REAGAN SAID.

WHITE HOUSE AIDES DID NOT DISCLOSE WHICH SENATE DEMOCRATS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO REAGAN'S PLAN TO DEPLOY 100 MX MISSILES IN CLOSELY SPACED SILOS IN WYOMING.

NO DEMOCRATS APPEARED WITH REAGAN AT HIS HASTILY CALLED NEWS CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENT STOPPED SHORT OF DECLARING DENSE PACK DEAD, AS SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHARLES PERCY, R-ILL., HAD DONE ONE DAY EARLIER, BUT SIGNED HIS WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE THE DECISION TO CONGRESS.

HE NOTED CONGRESS REJECTED HIS INITIAL INTERIM PROPOSAL TO PLACE MX MISSILES IN EXISTING SILOS AND SAID OF THE OTHER PLANS STUDIED, DENSE PACK EMERGED AS "THE ONE WITH THE LEAST WARTS."

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